THE CLAIMS:

1. An isolated, synthetic or recombinant χ-conotoxin peptide having the ability to inhibit a neuronal amine transporter.

2. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having the ability to inhibit a neuronal noradrenaline transporter.

3. An isolated, synthetic χ-conotoxin peptide having the ability to inhibit a neuronal amine transporter having a sequence selected from:

NGVCCGYKLCHOC SEQ ID NO. 1

and VGVCCGYKLCHOC SEQ ID NO. 2

or such a sequence which has undergone one or more amino acid deletion, additions, substitutions or side chain modifications.

4. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 3 which is χ-MrIA or χ-MrIB.

5. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2 which is a selective inhibitor of neuronal noradrenaline transporter.

6. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2 having negligible or no anticholinergic effect.

7. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2 having negligible or no activity as a sodium channel blocker.

8. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2 having negligible or no activity as an inhibitor of dopamine transporter.

9. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having four cysteine residues and two disulphide bonds.

10. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 9 wherein the disulphide bond connectivity is A-D/B-C, wherein A, B, C and D refer to the first, second, third and fourth cysteine residues respectively.

11. Use of a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 in a receptor binding assay to test the activity of a molecule as an inhibitor of neuronal noradrenaline transporter.

12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a χ-conotoxin peptide according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

13. A nucleic acid probe comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding as complementary to a sequence encoding all or part of a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

14. A monoclonal or polyclonal antibody to a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

15. A genetic construct comprising a vector portion and a nucleic acid capable of encoding a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

16. A χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 which is a chimeric peptide comprising a segment or sequence of a naturally occurring χ-conotoxin peptide and a segment or sequence of another biologically active peptide or protein, such that the resultant χ-conotoxin peptide possesses an activity associated with said other peptide or protein.

17. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of urinary or cardiovascular conditions or diseases or mood disorders, or for the treatment or control of pain or inflammation including the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of an isolated, synthetic or recombinant χ-conotoxin peptide having the ability to inhibit neuronal noradrenaline transporter.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the disease or condition of the urinary system is urinary or fecal incontinence.

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein the cardiovascular disease or condition is an arrhythmia or coronary heart failure.

20. A method according to claim 17 wherein the mood disorders are depression, anxiety or cravings.

21. A method according to claim 17 wherein the pain is chronic pain, neuropathic pain or inflammatory pain.

22. A composition comprising an isolated, synthetic or recombinant χ-conotoxin peptide having the ability to inhibit neuronal noradrenaline transporter, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

23. A composition according to claim 22 which is a pharmaceutical composition.

24. Use of an isolated, synthetic or recombinant χ-conotoxin peptide having the ability to inhibit neuronal noradrenaline transporter in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of urinary or cardiovascular conditions or diseases, or mood disorders, or for the treatment or control of pain or inflammation.

25. Use of a peptide according to claim 2 to inhibit neuronal noradrenaline transporter.

26. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in respect of which inhibition of neuronal noradrenaline transporter is associated with effective treatment or prophylaxis including the step of administering an effective amount of a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2.

27. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in respect of which inhibition of noradrenaline transporter is associated with effective treatment or prophylaxis including the step of administering an effective amount of a χ-conotoxin peptide according to claim 2.